

Justice for the Fortnum 145

On the same day as the half million march on the 26 march, UK uncut staged a peaceful protest in Fortnum and Masons, a food department store which sells hampers for up to £15,000.

Fortnum and Mason: Quality Food, Crafty Accountants

Fortnum & Mason is owned by Wittington Investments. Wittington Investments has a 54% stake in Associated British Foods (ABF), a multinational food corporation with revenues of some £10bn/year. Between 2005 and 2008, ABF set up a holding company in Luxembourg. Some of F and M profits are therefore going into this fund. Large sums of money were then sent - *interest free* - from ABF PLC and Primark (Ireland), also owned by ABF, into the holding company's account, and then sent straight back, this time with interest. According to tax experts, this has meant ABF's annual tax avoidance amounts to at least £10m through offsetting interest payments on profits.

UK uncut calls for the government to close tax loopholes which allow the super rich to dodge millions of pounds in tax each year, so that vital public services such as schools, hospitals and libraries do not have to be sacrificed.

Police mislead and arrest non-violent protesters in order to gather evidence on protest groups

Those protesting that day were told by the police on the ground that they were 'sensible' and 'peaceful', and would not be arrested for their actions and would be led into a safe area and then let go. Instead all 145 people were kettled outside when leaving and arrested for aggravated trespass (see video <http://justice26.org/>). **They were detained for almost 24 hours and had their clothes and mobile phones taken away from them, which have still not been returned.** One of those arrested was only 15 years old. Those arrested have been charged with aggravated trespass.

WHY WERE THE PEACEFUL PROTESTERS LIED TO BY THE POLICE?

WHY WERE THEY CHARGED?

WHAT IS THE COST OF THIS POLICE OPERATION AND HOW MUCH WILL IT COAST THE CPS TO PROSECUTE THEM?

IS THERE A POLITICAL PURPOSE BEHIND THIS PROSECUTION?

DROP ALL CHARGES NOW

RAISE THIS ISSUE OF CIVIL LIBERTIES IN YOUR UNION BRANCH

SIGN OUR PETITION TO HAVE THE CHARGES DROPPED

<http://38degrees.uservoice.com/forums/78585-campaign-suggestions/suggestions/1666111-petition-calling-for-the-dropping-of-charges-of-ag>

"I may not agree with what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it" Voltaire